No. 40, Vol. X.] OCTOBER, 1885.

THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION

Quarterly Record.

LONDON:

KENT & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW,

AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

All Communications to be addressed to the Editor, Exeter Hall, London.

Orders for Advertisements to be sent to R. K. Burt & Co., Fetter Lane.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Committee desire to express their grateful thanks to W. C. Collins, Esq., for a parcel of worn clothing; to the Rev. Horace Noel for a surplus stock of "Sunday Texts" for use amongst the schools; and to Mrs. Eley for a parcel of worn clothing. They are also most grateful for the many kind gifts sent by local and other friends for the Holiday Homes at Thursley (No. 1) and at East Grinstead (No. 2). For No. 1 they are greatly indebted to the Rev. Dr. Tyler for a useful pony, and for the promise of a donkey for No. 2 Home, and to another friend for the requisite harness. Other useful presents of meat, of vegetables, of flowers, of clothing and boots, of pictures for the walls, not to mention picnics, tea parties, and other thoughtful pleasures for the children, have been received at both places. For all these bounties, which are too numerous to mention in detail, the Committee tender their cordial thanks.

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION QUARTERLY RECORD.

OCTOBER, 1885.

"RENEWING THEIR STRENGTH."

Good old Jabez, in his brief but comprehensive prayer, which is niched amid a catalogue of difficult names in 1st Chronicles, 4th chapter, 10th verse, asks God to enlarge his coast, a petition well befitting praying people of later times. Nor need the plea be limited to material things, but may be extended to coasts of knowledge, of spiritual illumination, of patience, of observation, of sympathy, and many others respecting which Christians may profitably desire an extended boundary of experience.

The thought, however, occurred to us in connection with the poor City children, many of whom have indeed widened their coasts of knowledge of God's great book of nature, and renewed their strength, by a holiday in the country during the past summer. In one case at least which came under our notice the first sudden transition from the narrow court and slit of sky to the open country and heaven's expanse produced a feeling of dread and alarm. "Oh, teacher," said the little girl, sobbing with fright, "do take me home, it is so big!" as she glanced tremblingly at the expanse of blue and green above and around her.

These childish fears soon give way to boundless delight, as the child breathes the fresh air and learns that the wild flowers may be gathered at will. The scheme of country holidays for town children is good all round, and calculated to be of national benefit in developing the bone and sinew of the people. No wonder that it has been actively taken up in various quarters and bids fair to be still further developed. Ragged School teachers, whilst disclaiming all ideas of monopoly, rightly desire to have a share in this health-giving enterprise as far as possible for the benefit of the poor children under their fostering care. In the

case of one school at the East End a lady has munificently built and endowed three Homes in the country for the use of both children and adults. Other large schools have either secured separate Homes or the use of cottages in the country; and in this way large numbers of poor children have enjoyed the boon of a fortnight or more amid rural scenes or sea-breezes. The Committee of the Union have also had a share in the good work for some years past. It was, however, only in the spring of this year that they were able to take a permanent step, which, if confirmed and sustained by the contributions of the public, may grow indefinitely. The following circular was issued to the affiliated schools early in the year:—

"The Committee have watched with considerable interest the development amongst the affiliated schools and missions of the practice of sending the drooping children to the country for fresh air, rest, and health.

"Several of the larger schools now possess regularly established Homes, and others make temporary arrangements in cottages in the villages and hamlets around London.

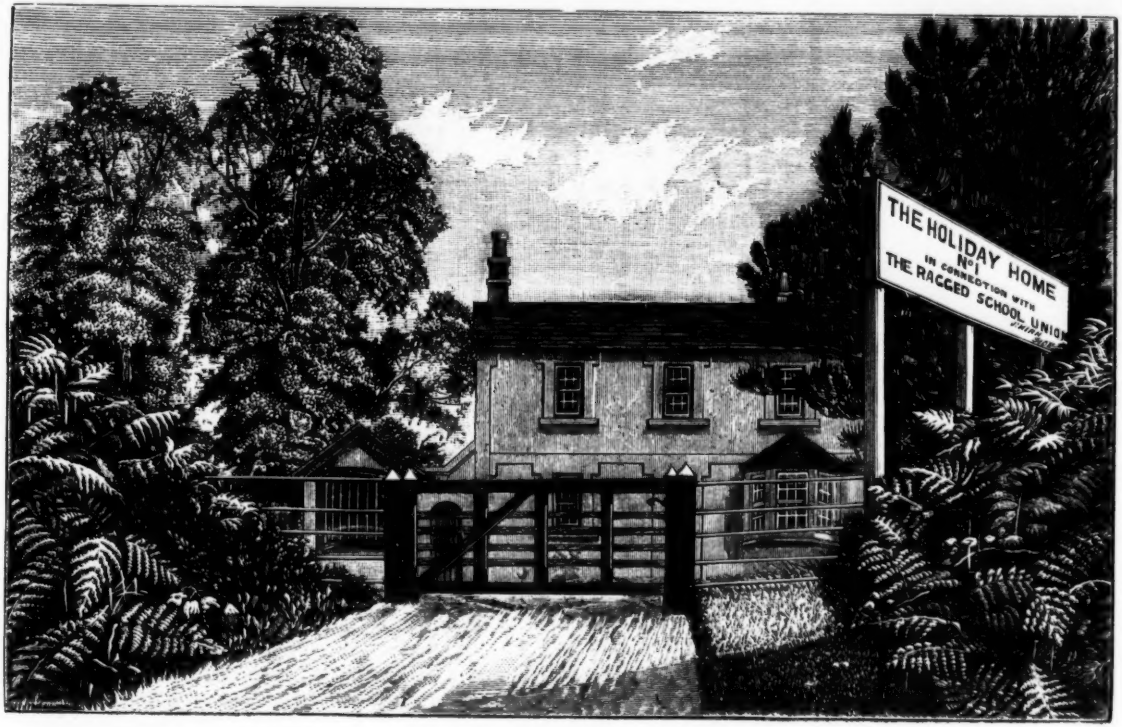
"Last year nearly two thousand poor children were benefited in this way from the London Ragged Schools, including three hundred and six specially sent and selected by the Committee of the Union.

"In commencing another season of this health-giving enterprise the Committee will continue to use the cottages, but to give fixedness to the arrangements they have lately secured a Cottage, which has already been used as a Holiday House, situated on Thursley Common, near Godalming, Surrey. This house, which will accommodate twenty children at a time, is being fitted and furnished for occupation, and will be ready shortly.

"The Committee invite the co-operation of the local schools in making it available for any children whom it may be desirable to send for change of air and rest, subject to the following rules:—The holiday will be for fourteen days. The children (boys or girls) must be over six and under fourteen years of age. Each child must be thoroughly clean and provided with a change of linen. No child can be admitted from any house where infectious sickness has been prevalent, or who is subject to fits, or who requires nursing. Disobedient children will be sent back to London immediately. Tickets can be had at the Office, Exeter Hall, on prepayment of five shillings each, for the fortnight. The railway fare is One Shilling and Sixpence, in addition, which it is hoped will be paid, whenever possible, by the parents. The children will be sent in fortnightly parties, according to the order of application, prior to which the Invitation Cards, giving full instructions, will be sent from the Office.

"On behalf of the Committee,

"JOHN KIRK, *Secretary.*"


THE HOLIDAY HOME
No. 1
IN CONNECTION WITH
THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION

References were made in our last number to this Cottage on Thursley Common, called Holiday Home No. 1, and also to the former Coffee Tavern at East Grinstead, designated Holiday Home No. 2, and we are now able to give pictures of both of them. With respect to No. 1, we will let our friend "Pearl Fisher" speak under the title of "Holiday House and its Delights," in *Word and Work* :—

"Right merry and blithe are the dwellers in Holiday House, as we find them romping, racing, wild-flower gathering on a breezy common thirty or forty miles from London. We are on high ground, and, looking around, mark the golden bloom dying on the gorse, while the heather is just bursting into flower; and far as eye can range moorland common, hill and dale, are tinged with the purple heath. Over one bold bluff peep the chimneys of the vicarage and the tower of Thursley Church, otherwise no sign can be detected of human habitation. There are, we understand, one or two houses widely apart, but, sheltering in nooks and corners, they are hidden by the uneven ground. It is a magnificent playground, on which hundreds of city children might wander at their own sweet will, harming nothing, and getting in nobody's way.

"A MERRY TROOP.

"And here are our happy bairns; we meet them trooping down a leafy lane, laden with wild flowers and ferns, trophies from hedgerow and moor. We note the sunburnt cheeks, we hear the merry shouts, and at first might pass them for children of the moorland. Yet stay; look again. Their cheeks are not so full and plump; there are lines of premature care, of pinch, and sorrow, and pain; they are not true heath-flowers, indigenous to the soil; they have drooped long in the hot, unwholesome courts and alleys of the great city, and traces are still there. Transplanted for a while to these fresh and open scenes, and unfettered in romp and play, they revive, oh, so wonderfully and brightly! Roses creep into pale cheeks; the elasticity of childhood makes itself felt and known in those long strangers to its thrills.

"FRESH-AIR MISSIONS.

"We sometimes regard ourselves as ahead of all nations in acts of charity and kindness, and so far it is true; yet in this respect some of our neighbours have gone before us. In some German and Dutch towns there have long been associations for giving the children of the poorest a week or more in the country; and in America this movement has taken firm hold, and is carried out largely by the friends of poor children. Here, however, it is only beginning; its benefits are hardly realised. We have been content to give them 'a day in the country,' and this truly affords unmeasured delight. Yet for real health-giving more is wanted.

"For these pale, sickly, drooping ones, who by thousands may be found in our inodorous courts and alleys, the Committee of the Ragged School

Union, in their genuine and practical zeal for real good-doing, have long been concerned. Now, however, they have taken a bold and wise step forward in securing Holiday House, on Thursley Common, placing it under the experienced care of Miss Higgins, a successful Ragged School teacher, and arranging for fortnightly relays of children. It will accommodate twenty children at a time, and inasmuch as every school in London has plenty of youthful invalids ready to name as sorely needing the change, there will always be abundance of applicants, not only for this house, but for another, which, it is whispered, may soon be secured.

"A BIG PLAYGROUND.

"We visited and inspected Holiday House, with its airy dining-room, its dormitories, &c. I had almost added its playground; but no, its playground extends for I know not how many miles, from that curious freak of Nature styled the 'Devil's Punch Bowl' to the very outskirts of Godalming; and we could not inspect all that, though we did the best we could to see as much as possible of it. Then we had the children themselves to see; but the hunt it wanted to find them reminded one of the butterfly chase of boyhood; for were they not scattered afar over the common and down the green and leafy lanes? We found them though after a while, guided by their merry shouts and gleeful laughter.

"'Well now, here are a fine lot of country children.'

"'Please, sir,' said one, 'we ain't country children; we're from London.'

"'You are! And where did you find the rosy cheeks and these wild flowers? Not in London streets, I'm sure.'

"'No, we've been down here nigh on a fortnight; and, oh, sir,' with a rueful look, 'we've to go back next Tuesday.'

"'You'll be glad to get home, won't you?'

"'No, sir; we'd like to stay here best,' shouted many of the little ones. 'But,' said one,—

"'I'll be glad to see mother again. I love this place, but I want mother.'

"Amidst all this fun and glee there is a real though quiet influence for good established. The matron has won her way to some of the hearts. The truths of the Gospel are listened to very quietly; for does it not tell of the love of Him whose hand has spread out the hitherto unknown beauties around, and who has put it into the hearts of His people to give them a chance of enjoying these beauties? Morning and evening there is reading of the Word and prayer, and a talk over the portion. The other night, weary with an unusually long ramble over the common, the tired matron hinted that reading might be dispensed with for one night. 'No, please, no!' was the response from the children; 'we do so love the reading and your talk with us.'

"DROOPING FLOWERETS.

"But, of course, the object chiefly sought is health and strength for drooping city flowers pining for fresh air, unfettered freedom, green fields.

and sunny glades; pining all the more that from earliest days they have never known such scenes, that they are unconscious of their need. How many a loving, though poor and struggling, mother knows well in her faintly-trembling heart that one or other of her fondly-loved little ones is drooping for the lack of a change! She knows it; she cannot help it; nothing she can do or contrive can afford the child the change for which it pines. The doctor has sorrowfully said, 'The child must have a change of air.' Even he knows the mother cannot obtain the means. It is not positively ill; it cannot claim or expect admittance to a Convalescent Home; yet all the same, it droops and pines and slowly fades away, just for lack of such a place as Holiday House.

"A PREVENTABLE WASTE.

"Alas! alas! the waste, the preventable (humanly speaking) waste of child life in this great city! Physicians, no less than practical Ragged School workers, know what this means, know how much of it might be saved by prompt and timely change to country air. And early death is by no means the only, or even perhaps the most pitiable, consequence of unchanging alley and court life. There are many who survive, but only to a weary, fragile, unhealthful life, fitting them very badly for the hand-to-hand struggle for existence which is the lot of the poor. All this, or very much of it, might be obviated by a couple of weeks' stay and play at such a health-giving spot as Holiday House, Thursley Common.

"Surely in such a loving and Christian effort many will cordially and heartily co-operate, and co-operate in a real and effective way, by contributing liberally towards the support of these Holiday Homes."

The following account of "Holiday Home No. 2" appeared in the *East Grinstead Observer* for Saturday, September 5, 1885:—

"The East Grinstead Home gives accommodation for thirty children, and they are brought down in batches to this number, all coming and all going at once. Beyond these there are beds for four teachers or grown-up scholars, who also spend a fortnight in the Home, free of cost to themselves, and assist the matron in attending to the wants of the juveniles. Over 500 have had this pleasure provided for them during the past summer only, so it will be seen that funds are largely needed. It can be imagined that in many instances the children who come down are but thinly clad, and parents or others would be conferring a great boon on the Home by sending parcels of left-off children's clothing, and especially old shoes or slippers. There are few families who could not spare a little in this way, and Miss Jameson, the matron, will gladly receive and acknowledge such gifts. Since its abolition as a coffee tavern the 'Elephant's Head' has undergone considerable alterations, the work having been very satisfactorily carried out by Mr. W. H. Steer. Altogether the place is admirably appointed. Good wholesome food is secured, cleanliness is certain, kindness and care are guaranteed. The tavern garden has been entirely done away with, and the space turned into a playground, in which several

HOLIDAY HOME No 2

swings, &c., have been erected, and everything is done that possibly could be done to add to the enjoyment and comfort of the juveniles."

It was intended to have given extracts from letters received from children, parents, and teachers, but want of space forbids; they must be reserved for a future number.

It is too early to obtain the figures from the local schools of the children sent out by them directly, but the numbers thus far benefited in connection with the Union may be briefly stated. 503 poor children have enjoyed the fortnight's holiday, either in the two Homes or in Cottages at Halstead, Witham, Maplestead, and Herne Bay. The fund kindly and specially contributed for holiday purposes has also been charged with wholly providing

A DAY IN THE COUNTRY

for 1,538 children and their attendant teachers, from 10 schools, and with granting subsidies to 16 other schools, representing 3,825 children and teachers.

A closing word as to the winter. It is hoped to keep at least one Home open for the benefit of special cases of children leaving the hospital or otherwise needing country air. At present, however, the holiday fund is quite exhausted, and the Committee hope this will not be forgotten amid the many other pressing necessities of the coming winter's campaign.

HOLIDAY HOME No. 2, EAST GRINSTEAD.

AN INAUGURAL MEETING.

On Wednesday afternoon, September 2, a social meeting was held in the Home to celebrate its establishment, and to give the local public an opportunity of inspecting the building and learning something of the objects of its foundation. The company present included Mr. W. J. Orsman (of the Committee of the Ragged School Union), Messrs. Kirk and Curtis (Secretaries of the Union), Mrs. Oswald Smith (the lady who built the coffee palace), and several other ladies the Revs. D. Y. Blakiston, Woodlands, Linington, and Barr, Mr. W. H. Steer, Mr. G. Holden Pike, and Mr. Sheppard.

The Vicar opened the proceedings with prayer, after which the girls at present staying in the Home came in and sang two hymns.

Mr. J. Kirk then explained that the Ragged School Union had

connected with it 180 schools, and it endeavoured, in every possible way, to assist them in their work. It gave prizes, assisted in emigration, and particularly aided the children's day in the country. This latter movement had of late years grown to such an extent that it became a patent fact that if any real benefit was to result from such a change it must be extended beyond one day. Five years ago the daughter of a Member of Parliament asked the Union to select some of the poorest children they could find from the Ragged Schools so that she could entertain them for a fortnight in the cottages around the family estate near Halstead, in Essex. The success of this was so remarkable that it was earnestly desired by the friends of the Union to extend the project, and when once it was started so many applications came in, and, seeing that there were 50,000 scholars in connection with the schools, some system of selection became imperative, and it was determined that the school must contribute a portion of the expenses of each child sent from it. Such a rule was found to add greatly to the success of the movement, for the teachers were very careful to select those whose circumstances they knew, and who would be unlikely, by their conduct or otherwise, to bring discredit on the Union. If it was ever thought the child recommended was suffering from any disease, he or she was examined by a medical gentleman, and never sent away if there was the faintest trace of an infectious disease.

The Chairman (Mr. W. J. Orsman) pointed out that they in England were far behind the Americans in the matter of sending children away in the summer time. By the aid of the Fresh Air Mission, as termed there, they were sent out in a specially chartered steamer, down the Hudson river, 2,000 at one time, scattered among the families along its banks, and after a while brought back by the same agency.

The Vicar then made a few remarks, and several questions were put and satisfactorily answered. It was stated the Home would be kept open during the winter if it was supported, and the London schools continued to pay their share towards the expenses. It was emphatically stated that the place was not in any way a convalescent home, no children recovering or suffering from illness being received; it was purely a holiday home.

The company then made an inspection of the premises, and all expressed satisfaction with the cleanliness and perfection of the arrangements. Tea and coffee were afterwards served by the matron and her assistants, and the pleasant gathering separated about five o'clock.

FLOWER SERMON.

Grass.

Delivered at Chequer Alley, June 14th, 1885, by Mr. R. R. Glover, the President.

"*And they of the city shall flourish like* GRASS *of the earth.*"—Psalm lxxii. 16.

"*Wherefore, if God so clothe the* GRASS *of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?*"—St. Matthew vi. 30.

The chapters from which these texts are taken are two gems. Let us look at them for a moment. The seventy-second Psalm is a noble Hebrew poem, a lofty lyric, a lark song rising above the mists of time into the clear blue of heaven, mingling its melody with the radiance of the most ancient heavens, and feeding human literature with an ideal of beauty on which it has lived and shall live for ages. It pictures a perfection of human happiness, nearer now than then, but still future, which carries you as on eagle's wings above the brooding darkness, far away from the shadow of death, and from the gloom of the grave.

The other text is taken from the sermon on the mount, the greatest sermon that was ever preached—a sermon which has permanently enriched humanity, which defines happiness to consist chiefly in humility, in self-denial and ministry to the needy, in peace-making, which forbids ostentation in prayer, and affectation in fasting, which strikes at the root of sin, in the heart rather than in the life, which forbids us to judge the character of others, and bids us take out the beam from our own eye before we touch the mote that is in our neighbour's. This sermon on the mount, which I commend to you, is the noblest piece of writing in all literature; it is the people's charter, the true *Magna Charta*, the foundation stone, not of British liberty, but of human liberty, from the rising to the setting of the sun, from the dawn of human history to its close.

But let us return to our text.

"The Grass of the earth."

"The Grass of the field."

The humble Grass.

What is Grass? It is a flower. Yes, it is a flower. Talking one day last week to one of our greatest scientists, he told me what Grass is. Yes, said he, Grass is a lily or lilaceous flower, "trimmed" or stripped of its ornaments in order that it may minister more effectually in the world. Flowers, as we understand them, are for beauty of form and colour and scent, but Grass, the plainest flower, is for food and comfort and nourishment. Like a nurse that doffs her finery to tend the sick, to minister to the needy, so Grass puts away its gaudy

flowers and concentrates its vitality on utility. So much for my friend's definition of Grass, and as he is one of the deepest thinkers, and one of the devoutest of men, and one of the keenest observers of nature, I have no doubt he is right.

And while I am giving the opinion of one scientific writer on Grass, let me give you a passage from Mr. Ruskin's writings, one of our greatest living authors. It is also on—

"*Grass.*—Gather a single blade of grass, and examine for a minute, quietly, its narrow sword-shaped strip of fluted green. Nothing, as it seems there, of notable goodness or beauty. A very little strength, and a very little tallness, and a few delicate long lines meeting in a point—not a perfect point neither, but blunt and unfinished, by no means a creditable or apparently much-cared-for example of Nature's workmanship; made, as it seems, only to be trodden on to-day, and to-morrow to be cast into the oven; and a little pale and hollow stalk, feeble and flaccid, leading down to the dull brown fibres of the roots. And yet, think of it well, and judge whether of all the gorgeous flowers that beam in summer air, and of all strong and goodly trees, pleasant to the eyes or good for food—stately palm and pine, strong ash and oak, scented citron, burdened vine—there be any by man so deeply loved, by God so deeply graced, as that narrow point of feeble green. It seems to me not to have been without a peculiar significance that our Lord, when about to work the miracle which, of all that He showed, appears to have been felt by the multitude as the most impressive—the miracle of the loaves—commanded the people to sit down by companies "upon the green grass." He was about to feed them with the principal produce of earth and the sea, the simplest representations of the food of mankind. He gave them the *seed* of the herb; he bade them sit down on the herb itself, which was as great a gift, in its fitness for their joy and rest, as its perfect fruit for their sustenance; thus, in this single order an act, when rightly understood, indicating for evermore how the Creator had entrusted the comfort, consolation, and sustenance of man to the simplest and most despised of all the leafy families of the earth. And well does it fulfil its mission. Consider what we owe merely to the meadow grass, to the covering of the dark ground by that glorious enamel, by the companies of those soft, and countless, and peaceful spears. The fields!

"Follow but forth for a little time the thoughts of all that we ought to recognise in those words. All spring and summer is in them—the walks by silent, scented paths—the rests in noonday heat—the joy of herds and flocks—the power of all shepherd life and meditation—the life of sunlight upon the world, falling in emerald

streaks, and failing in soft blue shadows, where else it would have struck upon the dark mould, or scorching dust—pastures beside the pacing brooks—thymy slopes of down overlooked by the blue line of lifted sea—crisp lawns all dim with early dew, or smooth in evening warmth of barred sunshine, dinted by happy feet, and softening in their fall the sound of loving voices; all these are summed up in those simple words; and these are not all. We may not measure to the full the depth of this heavenly gift in our own land; though still as we think of it longer, the infinite of that meadow sweetness, Shakspere's peculiar joy, would open on us more and more, yet we have it but in part. Go out, in the spring time, among the meadows that slope from the shores of the Swiss lakes to the roots of their lower mountains. There, mingled with the taller gentians, and the white narcissus, the grass grows deep and free; and as you follow the winding mountain paths, beneath arching boughs all veiled and dim with blossom—paths that for ever droop and rise over the green banks and mounds sweeping down in scented undulation, steep to the blue water, studded here and there with new-mown heaps, filling all the air with fainter sweetness,—look up towards the higher hills, where the waves of everlasting green roll silently into their long inlets among the shadows of the pines; and we may, perhaps, at last know the meaning of those quiet words of the 147th Psalm, 'He maketh grass to grow upon the mountains.'"

Now let us notice a few prominent characteristics of Grass.

1. *Its commonness.*—Like all God's best gifts, air, light, and water, it is almost everywhere present. In the frozen north, in the sunny south, and in all temperate zones. In the nobleman's park, in the cottager's patch, on the boundless plain, and on the towering mountain.

2. *Its utility.*—It is the daily bread of animal life, without which the world's life would cease. Beauty shorn of its ornaments, in order to utility. The reindeer in Lapland; the ox, and sheep, and horse of countries like our own; the wild horse of the prairies; the wild ass in its "wilderness home," are all dependent on grass. They live upon it, humanly speaking; they would perish without it. Hay is grass laid up for winter. But there are other more delicate uses of Grass. It furnishes a hiding-place for many of the birds which build their nests upon the ground. The lark which soars to Heaven's gate can probably see his lowly home and his little ones while he sings. Perhaps the sight of them inspires him. And it is the home of the little field-mouse which nibbles its tender blades, and lines his little nest with them, whence he issues, under cover of the night, on his thieving expedition for an ear of corn; and of multitudes of insects, which

burrow among its roots, and which are indebted to it for shelter from noontide heat and midnight cold, and for food. And does it do nothing for man, except what it does indirectly through the lower creation? Just think now. Is there nothing in its cool green tint? Is there not a restful adaptation in it to the weary eye, which has looked too long on other things, which has plied too long the needle and thread, or been used only to the coarse processes of human manufacture in a hundred ways, an adaptation as divinely grateful to jaded human faculties as cool water is to a thirsty soul, or as ice to the fevered lip. Why do you so much like to go to the country? It is because the green field is more agreeable to look on than the paved street, or the crowded alley, or the unwholesome workshop. One of our poets has said,—

"Man made the town, but God the country."

Isn't that true? and isn't it because you are face to face with God's workmanship when you find yourselves in a green field that you like the summer trip? You never thought of it, perhaps, but this is the fact. The country is God's workshop, the town is man's, and there is all the difference.

3. *Grass is beautiful.*—I have said it is beauty shorn of its ornaments in order to utility. This is true and not true. In the main, Grass is a useful flower, but it simply cannot divest itself of its beauty. Not to name again the general aspect of restful beauty which the green field wears, it is often covered with flowers, "so clothed," as the word of Christ has it, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like it. When I was last in the country the grass was full of flowers—of daisies with their crimson-tipped leaves, of buttercups, which the children hold under each other's chin, you know why—of daffodils,

"Whole beds of luxuriant beauty."

4. *Its testimony to its Maker.*—It stands forth as His workmanship. "*He* maketh Grass to grow upon the mountains," and like everything He does, it is perfect.

It is an ample provision. The everyday supply rather than the occasional luxury. Suggesting bounty, generosity, a Father's love.

Chiefly marked by utility; for ministry to need rather than abandonment to enjoyment.

But incapable of denuding itself of beauty and ornament.

"A FLOWER SERMON."

I READ this title, and pondered where best I might hear one. Reclining near my study window, I heard the sound of a church bell—a bee's hum; so I followed the busy verger into a pew of Nature's universal church—my garden. I seated myself in shady covert, waiting, silent, looking up and down those aisles—the garden walks. The light was subdued, though the sun was high towards his zenith. My prayer, uttered with hungering devoutness, was for the seeing eye, the hearing ear, the pure heart, and understanding to translate the language of flowers.

A spirit breathed on the wind, and an odorous whisper reached me from a clump of mignonette; another note of fragrance came lightly wandering, from heliotrope, and suddenly I felt the glow and blush of a rose, as her passion-laden breath filled my delighted sense. The sweet-pea, too, whose ungainly height was crowned with purple, pink, and white, shed its sweetness in profusion; there were, besides, rainbows of colour, graceful forms of varying stature, and character in droop and poise of each blossom. So my eyes wandered, wondering, enchanted; for the beauty was one of His thoughts, the fragrance a voice. But I sought to know more, and I remembered that to enter "the kingdom" one must "become as a little child." So I tried to meeten my heart, that I might hear the voice of instruction and counsel. The day was waning, for I had sat some time. There was a hush, a holy calm, for they keep Sabbath every day. They know nothing of duties, for their life is a divine service and their native expression worship.

'Tis autumn, and evening approaches. The crimson silence is full of motion; the fleecy messengers linger; they hold entreatingly the glow of ruddy beams, and soon the curtains of refreshful night, by the invisible guards, will be shutting in the starry firmament.

Listen! Flesh, hold thy peace, and let my soul hear. There is an evening hymn, and my every sense is quickened to a tender intelligence. I move in spirit the chanting tribes along. What a vision! The whole span of life is there. Cradled in calm and joyful bosom, the tiny bud sleeps, 'tis bedtime for babes; youth in its freshness and vigour, maturing perfection, are seen on every side; age and decay complete the measure, full of teaching. Does it seem sad? I wist *not*, for there is not a murmur. They have known their seasons, and these have relations in every family—plaintive notes of spring, in number outsounding the steely notes of winter; summer with its glamour and passion; autumn, when prophecies have become incarnate, and barrenness is promised a Saviour. They know their seasons.

I listen to their evening hymn.

Doth He walk again "in the cool of the evening"? and is this, this the response? I try to catch the words. There are some that sing with eyelids closed, daisies so simple, chanting of meekness that shall compass the earth; the cheery lobelia, whose bright eye gleams out of a blue firmament, hath a choir of blooms; the golden cluster of calceolaria, a waving plume, marks the rise and fall of the theme, whilst glowing lips chorus the strain, and the fragrance of myriad flowers, as incense upon a pure altar, ascends the steps of deepening twilight. Listen! "Joy in Him" is the theme of their chant. How sweet and grave! The wind is playing atween the notes, and in varying expression the life of a holy psalm penetrates my spirit. I see, existence, a consecration, the tempers of the elements borne with patient hope, change and loss disturb not the sanctity of dependence; the varying moods of light and air, symbols of "time and circumstance," are all beautiful to them, for hath He not made them? and each abideth His will.

Look! a slight stem is a-trembling, for the life nestled so close hath been called, and willingly is it yielded, safe, for they know the love of giving only, and He owneth all beauty, and they have no other language. The hymn is sweeter and louder; no such things as tears are known, for they are the expression of perfect love.

The happy, gladful strain quickens and vibrates; they shout for joy, and I alone am silent, I alone voiceless, humbled, tearful, one great throb.

One and another pause, and seem to look at me. At length, gathering my trouble amongst them, Heartsease speaks, and bids me hope and trust. A cloud of nodding heads echo the blessed counsel, as though His wind had brought the sweet message, and in calming confidence they sing in unison, "Joy in Him."

Now there falleth the dew, wrapping all with sweet embrace, tenderly covering the tiny grave, with a love hush, and the voices sink to silence within the misty mantle. They worship in heart, and I remember He pronounced them good; since when, nothing hath failed them, for their life is "Joy in Him." L. O. N.

THE SCHOOLMASTER'S SERMON.

A Piece of Wise Talk from "Bye-Path Meadow," by the late Edwin Paxton Hood.

"My dear boys and girls, what John Bunyan meant by warning us about Bye-Path Meadow was this—that when we go out of the straight path we lose the love and favour of God; we also lose that sense of fear of Him which was our best safeguard. That was a

great prayer, although a very simple one, of the Psalmist David, '*Lead me in a plain path;*' and the Apostle meant the same thing when he said, '*Make straight paths for our feet.*' The road of duty is a rough road; the road of life is difficult at best; but how much more difficult it becomes when we confuse ourselves and miss our way in *Bye-Path Meadow!* '*He that walketh rightly, walketh surely.*' Depend upon it, all the wrong things in the world were begun by going over the stile into Bye-Path Meadow—thinking, although it was out of the way, it would come all right at last. I have known many men who came wrong at last—some who came fearfully wrong—through the first step. I had a friend, who was born in a way of life above me, and he seemed very prosperous; but he was ambitious. He thought he could be something more than he was, and so most likely he would have been could he only have waited; but he tried to take a short cut to greatness—he could not bring his mind to his circumstances—he launched out beyond his means. Presently, although his circumstances were good, they became quite insufficient for the demands of his new liabilities. Poor fellow! he was mad enough to forge three or four heavy bills; he could not bear to feel that he had been wrong, and to acknowledge it by winding up his affairs, and paying twenty shillings in the pound. He tried still to play an unequal game. I think he did not mean, in the end, to defraud anybody; he hoped to meet all the demands upon him, and so he braved detection. He stepped into Bye-Path Meadow; he did not see the prison, and worse, at the end of it. The devil often says to us, 'You can do this. I'll keep it quite secret; nobody shall know anything about it beside you and me.' And then, if we comply, as soon as it is done, he publishes our shame in all the newspapers. Poor fellow! it's many years since I saw my friend the night before he was hanged in the county gaol. Nobody ever yet took the first step into Bye-Path Meadow and stopped there. It is a very fascinating spot. '*Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret, how good it is!*' At first Bye-Path Meadow seems so near to the highroad, and for some time you can see the high road from the path, and suppose that you can, at any moment, return. I know a very celebrated writer who speaks of *taking the flowery way which leads to the broad gate and the great fire;* and, again, of *those who go the primrose way to the everlasting bonfire.* This is dreadful. The Path of Duty is rough at first, pleasant at the close. Bye-Path Meadow is pleasant at first; but how rough at the close! It is so smooth, and frequently flower-clad, but every step is really wrong; and, therefore, every step makes an increase of wrongs; just as we saw this afternoon in working that sum in multiplication, one wrong figure was but one; but when it became compound multi-

plication, then, by the end of the figure, what an amazing error we had in the sum! Thus it is with life."

The book has an extended notice in the *Literary World*. The reviewer says it is one of those rare and delightful stories which please people of all ages. The charm of the story lies in the telling, which has all the quaint humour, sound wisdom, brightness and pathos, which ever characterised the writings of the gifted and lamented author. It is published by James Clarke and Co. New edition, price 3s. 6d.

AN EAST END FLOWER SERVICE.

Pearl Fisher, in his interesting account of the Annual Floral Celebration at King Edward Ragged Schools, says:—

"The interior of the comfortable mission-room presented a wonderful contrast to its wonted appearance. On the platform had been erected a gallery tier upon tier, upon which were displayed choice and beautiful flowers, a trellis arch in the centre was hung with pine-apples and other fruit, as well as flowers, while two beautiful palms flanked the arch; above and beneath were cut flowers in great profusion and of the choicest description, having come from some of the finest gardens and conservatories in the land. As with the platform, so with the body of the hall; flowers, hanging creepers, and ferns, were everywhere. These flowers, in all their freshness of beauty and perfume, were, however, by no means merely for show, but were destined to carry brightness and sweetness into hundreds of poor homes and sick chambers. They were, in a large measure, the gifts of the West to the poor of the East. Royal Princesses had sent their quantum, one Princess, Mary of Cambridge, sending her own gardener with a large donation of flowers; eight duchesses and nearly fifty countesses had contributed to the supply of flowers, while Her Majesty had graciously written, through her private secretary, giving reasons why it was inexpedient she should accede to the request for flowers. All day long on Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Montague and their willing helpers had been labouring, arranging the flowers in the hall, and making up over 1,200 bunches to be given to the sick and the poor to gladden by their fragrance and sweetness many a humble home and weary, pain-stricken sufferer.

"Three services were held on the day; first in the morning, for the parents of the children attending the schools; then in the afternoon, for the boys and girls from ten to sixteen; and in the evening, for the elder scholars (over sixteen). Mr. George Noakes preached in the evening.

"Looking round upon our young, vigorous congregation, with all the possibilities of life before them, one could not but rejoice in the clear Gospel preached to them, and that in the East End of London so many of such a class and such an age could be gathered to listen attentively, and we trust in many cases heedfully and to purpose."

CHEQUER ALLEY—THE HOPE MISSION.

Flower Services were held on June 14th. The service in the afternoon, for children, was conducted by the Rev. J. Morgan, and in the evening, for adults, by Mr. R. R. Glover. The hall was tastefully decorated with arches of evergreens and flowers. Mottoes from Scripture suitable to the occasion illuminated the walls. The services on both occasions were well attended. Hymns of a religious and festive character, to appropriate music, were sung by the choir.

The Annual Prize Distribution took place some weeks later, at which R. G. Moser, Esq., presided, and presented over 100 prizes to the successful competitors at the Flower Show and Industrial Exhibition, and 52 Sunday-school prizes were given for regular and punctual attendance, and 12 Ragged School Union prizes to scholars who had kept their situations for twelve months and upwards. Dr. Mackay presented four prizes and framed certificates to those who had passed a successful examination in Scripture. J. Ness, Esq., distributed Night School prizes to such of the boys and girls as had regularly attended during the session, and who had acquitted themselves well at the Government examination. A most pleasant evening was spent, there being present, besides the prize-takers, a large number of parents and friends.

GOLDIE STREET FLOWER SHOW.

This Flower Exhibition was held on Tuesday evening, 18th August. The children were required to obtain their own plants and slips. Seventy did so, and brought them to the schoolroom for approval and entry on the appointed evenings early in April. Of the 70 exhibitors entered, 52 brought in plants, and many of them were found to be in very fine condition. Fifteen children brought flowers which they had grown, but had not entered, making a total of 67 exhibitors for prizes. Several of the children brought in large bunches of cut flowers, and friends belonging to the school did the same. A quantity of ferns were gathered and sent from the country for us, and a number of friends sent us choice flowers in pots to help to beautify the room.

Addresses were delivered to the children and parents present by Mr. R. Turner, Mr. Rowe, and Mr. E. S. Hardy, and prizes were awarded to many of the exhibitors. The plants exhibited were geraniums, fuchsias, begonias, musks, &c.

LANSDOWNE PLACE RAGGED SCHOOL FLOWER COMPETITION.

On Friday evening, August 7th, a very interesting gathering took place at Lansdowne Place Ragged School, Tabard Street, Borough. The occasion was a flower show, the first of the kind held in this school, and as such it was eminently successful. The vicinity of Tabard Street, or, as it was formerly named, Kent Street, is well known to be one of the poorest neighbourhoods in London, and the idea of holding a flower show in the midst of such a district could only have emanated from those who from intercourse and experience have ascertained that beneath the roughest exterior there is frequently to be found a love for the beautiful and enjoyment of nature's sweet flowers. The flower show was under the supervision of Mr. F. Passmore, superintendent, and Mr. F. Fisher, hon. sec., who sends the following statement of his arrangements for a flower competition:—

"Names to the number of 100 were handed in by the teachers of deserving scholars, and in May we had the plants potted into large pots to give room for growth, and a small parchment label bearing a number tied on each plant and sealed—thirty-five geraniums, thirty-five fuchsias, and thirty giant musk. These were drawn for by cards bearing numbers corresponding with the plants' numbers. A card to hang up was supplied with each, having full cultural directions. About six weeks afterwards we had them in, and put larger sticks where needed; and certainly we did not feel very encouraged then, as the cold wind we had been experiencing had given many a poor look, and made us fearful of results. However, these fears were groundless, as you perceive; and to see the joy of the little ones, as they deposited their carefully-tended plants, was a thousandfold return for the trouble we had taken. One incident occurred which was mentioned in the speech of the superintendent at the show. A little fellow came in with a pretty fuchsia; tears were running down his little grubby face, and in taking the plant the superintendent asked the cause of his grief. His touching reply was, 'A big boy at the door pulled a *leaf* off my plant.' I need hardly add his plant, after such love set upon it, received a prize. This is the sort of thing that is worth years of labour to cultivate. As each plant was brought we

sent the children home for an hour, and sent an invite to the parents, and from seven to eight the judge, with nothing but the numbers on the plants, examined them and decided the merits; and afterwards, when the show was arranged, we hung on the card (the side with the name and details of exhibitor). We found so many good that we had to give a fourth prize, and to each we gave as an encouragement a pretty floral card, with the words 'Honourable mention' written upon about six in addition to the prizes. Mrs. F. Fisher gave away the prizes, and a pleasant evening was spent. One girl told me that she never has sunshine any time during the year at her window. No charge was made at all."

The card to hang up supplied with each flower had on it the following particulars. On one side the number of the plant, name and age of exhibitor, and name of teacher. On the other side the name of the school, &c., and directions varying according to the plant. The card to hand bears the following:—

"CAREFULLY FOLLOW DIRECTIONS GIVEN BELOW.

"FUCHSIA.

"When the mould begins to dry, fill the top of the pot with water. Sprinkle the plant with water three or four times a week, or every day if the weather be dry; this is best done in the evening. Turning the plant every day will cause it to grow round and bushy. If left always facing one way it will grow flat. Let the plant have plenty of light and air. If the weather be fine, and not too windy, nor the sun very scorching, the plant will thrive better outside on the window-ledge than in the room."

The certificate of merit was a card with flowers on a ground of gold. In the centre were the words, "Presented to ———— as a Certificate of Merit, awarded at the flower competition, Lansdowne Place School. August, 1885."

STEPHEN-THE-YEOMAN FLOWER SHOW.

A VERY successful flower show was held in connection with Stephen-the-Yeoman Ragged School, on the evening of the 24th July, in the Lecture Hall, Salisbury Street, kindly lent for the occasion by the ministers and deacons of Jamaica Road Congregational Church. There were nearly 400 exhibits, between two and three hundred of the children attending the school being exhibitors. The show of geraniums, fuchsias, musks, creeping jennies, &c., excellent in itself, was doubly gratifying when the circumstances were considered in which the flowers had been cultivated. For they had been grown in very poor homes in narrow courts, where the sun is but an uncertain

visitor. The gathering was presided over by the treasurer of the mission, the Hon. H. A. Lawrence, who declared himself highly pleased with the exhibition. He was sure that the children were the better for the care and the love they had given to their plants. There were few purer tastes than that which induced the cultivation of flowers, and he rejoiced to know that these annual flower shows of Stephen-the-Yeoman Ragged School were spreading a love of floriculture all about the district. Mr. Lawrence was followed by Mr. Devitt, the Rev. G. Irving Davies, rector of Kelsall, the Rev. J. Farren, and others, who warmly congratulated the children and their teachers on the appearance of the flowers. Mr. Davies evoked great enthusiasm on the part of the scholars by saying that he hoped within a few days to go with them to the seaside to spend what he was sure would prove a happy day. The prizes to the successful exhibitors were given out by Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Davies. Votes of thanks to the chairman and the friends who had lent the hall were spoken to by Mr. Miller and Mr. Menzies. It should be noted also that the proceedings were further brightened by some excellent singing by Misses Hazelden and Chafen, Mr. Lloyd, and the children of the day school.

ACROSS THE WATER.

A NOTE ON EMIGRATION.

"I BELIEVE that in every country of a limited area, in which the population increases as in this country, there must be well-regulated emigration, and if we have that it must do a great deal of good." Such were the weighty words of the late lamented Lord Cairns, in moving a resolution to promote emigration and other measures to advance the economic welfare of the poor at the Conference on Ragged Schools two years ago.

So thought the early workers in Ragged Schools who, as early as May, 1848, began to select suitable scholars for transplanting to the new lands beyond the seas. The scheme assumed great dimensions, and was for a limited period assisted by the State. Of late years, however, but little has been done, and the "Emigration Fund" of the Union has existed only in name. From time to time scholars from the Ragged Schools have been sent away through various channels, as the means or the opportunity occurred. The Committee of the Union are of opinion that much more might be done to draft some of the youthful toilers attending the Ragged Schools to parts less crowded than our own, to the manifest advantage of all concerned.

As an earnest of such needed extension of effort, two of the old scholars of the Horseferry Road Ragged School, Richard Sayers and Samuel Castle, were sent off on September 3rd to Canada, where it is hoped they will obtain the employment they sought for in vain in the Old Country. A small meeting, attended by Messrs. Gent and Haward, of the Committee, was held in the office beforehand, and the two young men counselled and commended to God in prayer.

This old branch of Ragged School work cannot obviously be revived without additional funds. It is hoped these will be supplied; and that with respect to the small party tossing on the Atlantic as we write, our earnest desire and prayer is that this "little one may become a thousand."

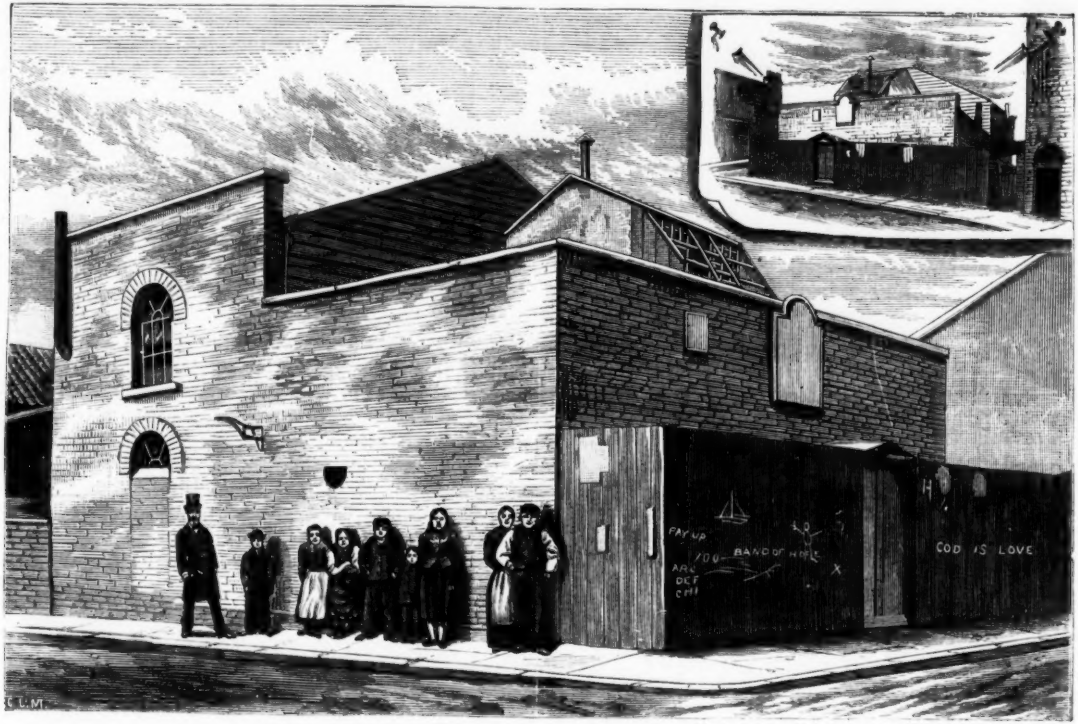
DEPTFORD RAGGED SCHOOL.

We present our readers in this quarter's *Record* with two views of the old and new Ragged Schools at Deptford.

The history of the old building and its predecessors was given in a former number; that of the new is at present *in futuro*. But, although comparisons are said to be odious, yet a few words respecting the old building as compared with the new may not prove unacceptable to our readers.

The old building, with all its faults, has sheltered much good work done for God's glory and man's good. How many sinners have been converted or restrained, wanderers reclaimed, heartbroken ones comforted, souls trained for heaven, only "*the* day" can declare; and this, too, amid difficulties and disadvantages which would have thoroughly discouraged any but earnest and whole-hearted labourers; but, like an army of Cæsars, they "came, saw, and conquered" every obstacle.

As time went on the building showed evident signs of decay, and, notwithstanding constant repairs, it was most difficult to keep it weatherproof: no sooner was one portion of the roof repaired than at the next shower rain poured in through another. The ceiling and walls internally were full of patches, where the mortar had from time to time fallen away, while the flooring was so rotten that on more than one occasion the legs of the teacher's chair pierced through; and when the gymnasium was first started, a new flooring had to be nailed upon a portion of the old one. The drains were so bad that during the summer months they were scarcely bearable. Externally, too, the building exhibited a forlorn appearance. An old tarred fence of the roughest description protected the entrance doors on one side,



THE OLD RAGGED SCHOOL.

while the passage which ran round two sides of the site was the depository of as much rain and mud, if nothing more, as the place would accommodate. The walls at certain points were crumbling away; and, as if anticipating demolition, other portions fell voluntarily, and little, if any, exertion was required in the actual work of bringing them down. It so happened that the site of the school, with some property adjoining, which had been for some years past in Chancery, was, under an order of the Court, decreed to the rightful owner, who wished to sell the freehold, which the committee secured, and set to work to obtain the necessary funds to rebuild.

The new building is from a design from J. O. Abbott, Esq., of 31, Charing Cross, the hon. architect, and it is to his patient consideration of the requirements of the work that, after revision and re-revision of his plans, he has succeeded in designing what may be looked upon as a model structure for Ragged School work. The building is in process of erection by Messrs. Holloway Brothers, of Battersea, the material and workmanship being of first-rate quality. When completed it will furnish a large schoolroom more than 45 feet square on the first floor, an infant school and three class-rooms on the next lower floor, and a kitchen and store-room and cellars below. By these means the committee hope to be able to carry on old work more efficiently, and to add such extra work as is needful for the benefit of this very poor neighbourhood. The entire cost of freehold site, building, and foundations will be about 2,400*l.*, and about £850 is wanted before the end of the year to prevent stoppage of the works and to complete the building. The committee propose raising this sum by purses to be presented on the opening day to some member of the royal family or other eminent person, whose presence the committee are endeavouring to obtain. Help, however, in any form will be gladly welcomed.

Laying the Foundation Stone.

On Monday afternoon, August 10, a very interesting ceremony was performed by Master Evelyn, the son of Mr. W. J. Evelyn, J.P., in the presence of a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen. The occasion was the laying of the foundation-stone of the new building to be used as the Deptford Ragged School. The school was founded as far back as December, 1844, being one of twenty started by the Ragged School Union. The work has continued in various places since then on unsectarian principles, and it is gratifying to record that it has been instrumental in doing a large amount of good amongst the poorer classes of this densely populated part of the metropolis. The demand for accommodation has recently outgrown the supply of room, and

THE NEW RAGGED SCHOOL.

hence the supporters of the school have had to determine upon putting up a more commodious edifice. Master Evelyn laid the stone in the presence of Mr. Evelyn and Mrs. Evelyn. Earl Shaftesbury; Mr. T. W. Boord, M.P.; Baron de Worms, M.P.; the Revs. Morley Wright, J. T. Wigner, and H. McIntosh were among those invited, but were unfortunately unable to be present. Among those who attended besides Mr. and Mrs. and Master John Harcourt Chichester Evelyn were the Rev. J. C. Wetherell (St. Peter's, Brockley), Rev. J. Malcolmson (St. Luke's, Deptford), Messrs. Arnold (hon. sec.), Rolfe (hon. sec. building committee), &c. The proceedings having been opened with prayer by the Rev. J. Malcolmson, Mr. Rolfe read letters of apology and regret for non-attendance from many friends.

Mr. T. Arnold (hon. sec.) delivered a very interesting speech dealing at the outset with the commencement of the Ragged School movement in Deptford. He said that they stood upon what was to them a sacred spot. The school was founded on December 1st, 1844. It was then situated in Flood Street, now Addey Street, and the house had since been pulled down. The work was begun by eight members of the High Street Congregational Church, but it was carried on without sectarian principle. In 1846 the school was moved to a loft or carpenter's shop over a yard in Giffin Street, a few yards from where they were standing, and in 1848 was again moved to premises in Duncan Yard, High Street. In 1851 a Day School was opened, and conducted by Mrs. Crocker; and in 1852 an Infant Class and Clothing Fund was formed. In 1855 the school was removed to that spot, which was then the site of an old Baptist Chapel. It was amusing to read in an old report of the school the expression of satisfaction of the committee on having secured this "commodious edifice." Now, as regarded finance, they had paid for the freehold £320, and the carcase of the new building was to cost £1,358. Of this they had paid £570, leaving £1,108, a sum equal to what they had in hand. The amount required to finish the building was £546, and they also wanted £300 for heating, lighting, and furnishing, *so that the sum they now required was about* £850, *which he hoped would soon be raised.*

Mr. W. J. Evelyn, J.P., who was very warmly received, next made a few observations applicable to the occasion, saying that he wished that some one who takes a more active part in the work of the school or some minister of religion had been called upon to fill the position he was occupying. But he was there at their wish, and they must, therefore, be satisfied with his imperfect services as chairman on that occasion. Looking back at the past history of that institution, he could not but regret that the founder of that school was no longer

amongst them to see the good result of the work he had at heart so much. He was glad to see that there was nothing sectarian in the movement, which was assisted by men of all shades of religious and political opinions, with a mutual desire to benefit the poorer classes of their countrymen. It was a grand movement to help those who could not help themselves in the great struggles they had to bear, to teach them habits of thrift and temperance, and to look after their spiritual good as well as their temporal happiness. He recognised in the principles of this society a movement that provided for the development of the moral and religious nature as well as to the instruction of the mind. In the future they would have to look to provide happy homes for the people, and they must now make allowance for error and deviation from the strict paths of rectitude. Let them do all they could for those poor people, and hold out the hand of fellowship to them. He trusted that God would send His blessing on their humble labours—(hear, hear)—and hoped that there would be renewed zeal to forward the movement, so that in the future they would have the happiness of seeing the results of their labours in the improvement of the moral and social condition of the poor children of Deptford. His wishes for the prosperity of the school were very sincere, and if he could do anything for its welfare they could always depend upon him to do it.

A hymn was here sung, and Mr. Evelyn, in calling upon his son to perform the ceremony of laying the stone, said that when Master Evelyn was only three years old he assisted him (the speaker) in laying the stone of a Congregational Chapel in the neighbourhood of Wotton, and again at the age of six he laid the first stone of a new homestead. Now, at nine years of age, he was called upon to perform another ceremony of the kind. He hoped this would benefit the poor people of Deptford, both temporarily and spiritually. He would now call upon "Johnny" to lay the stone.

Master Evelyn then performed the ceremony, declaring it "well and truly laid," amidst cheers. The steel trowel was presented to him as a memento of the occasion.

The Rev. J. C. Wetherell moved the following resolution:—"That the best thanks of this assembly be given W. J. Evelyn, Esq., for the kind interest he has taken in the Deptford Ragged School, and for presiding on this occasion; also to Mrs. Evelyn for gracing the occasion with her presence; and to Master John Harcourt Chichester Evelyn for laying the foundation stone."

Mr. S. G. Hart seconded, and Messrs. Robinson and Rolfe supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously. It was stated by Mr. Rolfe that the words "To the glory of God and the good of the Poor" would be written over the door of the new building.

STEPHEN-THE-YEOMAN.

We are very pleased to be able to report that the committee of Stephen-the-Yeoman Ragged School have received such a response to their recent appeal that they will be able to set about rebuilding their school forthwith. Indeed they have accepted a tender for the work, which it is hoped will be completed by the end of the year. We congratulate our friends in Marigold Place on this to them happy result of their labours, and hope that in their new quarters they will do even greater things than they did in their old. The enlarged accommodation has long been greatly needed.

We must add that the entire sum required to open without debt is not yet promised. We commend the cause again to our readers, reminding them that the treasurer is the Hon. H. A. Lawrence, 19, St. Dunstan's Hill, City, who will be happy to acknowledge contributions.

A PRESENTATION.

"Honour to whom honour is due."

The Costermongers' Mission, of which Mr. J. W. Orsman was the founder, has held on its unfaltering and progressive way for twenty-one years. For most of this time its headquarters were in Golden Lane, St. Luke's, and when the great clearance took place for the making of a great thoroughfare, under the order of the Board of Works, Mr. Orsman wisely transferred his headquarters to Hoxton, in which locality the costers are legion. Here he erected some years since a large hall, with smaller halls, class-rooms, vestries, kitchen, and schoolrooms. Externally the building wears much the aspect of business, for the basement of a noble and lofty frontage is occupied by shops. The wisdom of such arrangement is evident, for the rent of these goes a long way towards the support of the permanent work of the Mission. This has been a taxing work on the time and strength of its founder and superintendent. The Mission is large and varied, for it comprises mission work among adults and schools for children, open-air work, house-to-house visitation, a provision for those recovering from sickness in a Convalescent Cottage, Costers' Sick and Burial Club, Bible Classes, large gatherings for systematic conversation on Christian topics, Lectures and Entertainments on winter evenings for young and old, &c., &c.

The Mission Services to adults are on an extended and systematic scale; some eight or nine hundred persons are gathered together on Sunday evenings, to whom Mr. Orsman delivers the gospel message.

In recognition of twenty-one years' long, faithful, and unpaid service, on June 23rd the members of this Mission Church not only celebrated its majority, but presented Mr. W. J. Orsman with a beautiful illuminated address on vellum, full of expressions of loving esteem to him, and of gratitude to God for the blessing which He had accorded to the work and worker. Lord Shaftesbury was to have presided, but was prevented, and to show his deep regret sent a letter in the morning and one in the evening full of words of love and sorrow. Mr. Scott, of the *Christian*, presided, and excellent speeches were delivered by Messrs. H. C. Morgan, W. J. Dennis, C. Hart, G. Bull, Langan, and Wells. On the 30th of the same month the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon preached to an attentive and appreciative audience, on which occasion he said, "I am delighted with this Mission, and feel a peculiar interest in seeing you all. It, however, makes me feel old. Mr. Orsman is my son in the faith, therefore you must be my spiritual grandchildren."

THE TEACHERS' REST AT HIGH BEECH.

WITHIN a stone's cast of the King's Oak is the beautifully situated cottage where weary workers from time to time seek rest and change. Provided with a pleasant sitting-room, light and airy bedrooms, pure air, and good food, with a whole forest to range in, what more can be desired? Grateful are the spontaneous expressions of thanks from those who enjoy this summer outing. The following extracts from letters received may be regarded as specimens of the whole:—

"We left High Beech on Saturday very much benefited by our stay there. We feel very grateful for the delightful change of air and rest provided through the kindness of the Ragged School Union Committee.—M. W. and A. R."

"My fellow-teachers as well as myself are charmed with the home and its surroundings, and have already derived much benefit, and are very grateful for the healthful change.—H. W."

"Returned from High Beech last Saturday, having spent a most happy time with congenial friends.—J. B."

Funds for this special object are needed.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES.

I WAS much struck during my recent visit to Margate with the clever way the children were managed by some of the minstrels on the beach. The children were grouped in two or more rows, and

made to sing. First one and then another were called up from time to time to sing alone, then all joined in the chorus. Sometimes the children were divided into sections, and each sang by turns the same song; these were competing choirs. Then came another change; the children clapped and shouted, and finally they were made to stand, arranged to order, and marched about in and out in the most tortuous fashion, with tiny bannerets which they waved aloft, and shouted as they went, "Hurrah! hurrah!" It was a happy time with the children.

I saw a children's service. The singing was far from general; it was done principally by some kind ladies; and the address was, to my mind, beyond the little folks. There was a lack of the "go" that characterised the minstrels. They, it may be said, were driving a trade in coppers, and the visible end they worked for brought all their wits into requisition. True! but this instance verifies the saying of our Lord, that the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

Children's services, to be successful, must be bright and varied. Those who conduct them must have the love of Christ certainly, but with this there must be a natural love of children and a nature capable of enthusiasm. The head of a man, and the heart of a woman, with the freshness and joyousness of a child, are the combination needed.

Is there any reason why, *at the seaside*, the more serious services should not be interchanged with some innocent entertainment? "There is a time for everything under the sun," and for children certainly the play-hour. OBSERVER.

SCHOLARS' PRIZES, CHRISTMAS, 1885.

THE Committee of the Ragged School Union, being desirous to encourage good conduct and long-continued service in all who have passed through the schools of the Union, have again decided on giving prizes to young persons who have kept their situations with good character for twelve months or upwards, and coming within the following conditions, viz.:—

1. They must be over twelve and under eighteen years of age.

2. They must have attended the Ragged School or Mission giving the recommendation at least six months *previously* to having entered the first situation held by them.

3. Having kept any one situation for twelve months, ending in 1885, they are allowed to make one change, but must not be out of

place for more than two weeks; in this case they are eligible for the prize, provided they are in the second place on December 31st, 1885. Certificates of character will be required from both of these situations.

4. If they have not before received a prize, they will now be entitled to seven shillings and sixpence, as well as a card, provided the committee of the school recommending pay two shillings and sixpence of it.

5. Those who have received a money prize previously, and are again recommended, will be entitled to an illuminated certificate and a prize book.

6. They must have been in regular attendance at the Ragged or other Sunday School for the *current* year. This rule does not apply to domestic servants.

7. Shoeblacks, occasional labourers, scholars partially employed, or those engaged by their relatives, will not be eligible for the prizes.

8. Certificates must be furnished by the employers and school authorities, to show that these conditions have been complied with, and that good conduct has been continued to December 31st, 1885.

9. The candidate will lose the benefit of the prize if the application be not fully and accurately filled up, duly signed, and returned to the office, Exeter Hall, on or before January 30th, 1886.

The prizes may be given in books, clothes, or otherwise, as the committee of the school may determine.

Exeter Hall, December, 1885. JOHN KIRK, *Secretary*.

MAGIC LANTERNS.

THE winter session of 1885 is now at hand; we therefore beg to remind the superintendents and workers of the missions, when they draw up their plans for winter amusements, that the Ragged School Union lanterns will again be available, subject to the undermentioned conditions.

"At least a fortnight's previous notice must be given, and in making the application please give size of room and other particulars. The lanterns can be used singly or conjointly for dissolving views, with oil or lime and gas. If the limelight is required, the gas and limes must be provided by the school; if used with oil-light, the best paraffin oil (only) to be used, and great care with the lanterns is necessary at all times. The oil-chambers must be emptied after use. The apparatus must be called for on the day arranged, and returned to the office the following morning; the expense of porterage to and fro being wholly

defrayed by the school using the lantern. All breakages and losses must be made good. The collection of slides is miscellaneous, and includes—'The Two Apprentices' (Hogarth), 'Dick Whittington,' 'Mother Hubbard,' 'Tale of the Five Pigs,' 'John Gilpin,' Natural History, Nursery Tales, Chromatropes, Moveable Slides, Hymns, &c. When special subjects are desired the Committee will be willing to hire them to a limited extent free of charge.

It should be understood that the office cannot hold itself ready to meet any request further than as regards the *loan of the apparatus*. If the services of a lecturer or operator should be required, the utmost will be done to oblige, but notice must be given on making the application to Mr. Kirk at the office, Exeter Hall, W.C.

WINTER WORK.

THE following circular has been widely issued:—

"Ragged School Union, Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.
"September 2nd, 1885.

"DEAR SIR,—The time for the winter session is rapidly approaching. It is hoped that evening work, comprising Night Schools, Youths' Institutes, and other work of a spiritual and social character, will be commenced or resumed. I shall be glad when necessary to confer with you, or with your committee, on any matters affecting the school work.

"A line saying what is proposed to be undertaken will greatly oblige. "I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,

"RICHARD J. CURTIS, *Organising Secretary*."

"LOOPED AND WINDOWED RAGGEDNESS."

THIS quaint phrase, from the mintage of Shakspeare's brain, sets forth the open and exposed condition of poor children's bodies. Those who have little ones they love and tenderly shelter, or any whose hearts are readily touched with pity, will kindly note this annual appeal.

When the north wind doth blow,
And we shall have snow,
What will the *children* do then, poor things?
They can't sit in a barn, and keep themselves warm,
And hide their heads under their wings, poor things,

so we appeal for clothing, new or old, or contributions in money, to

meet a primary want. Besides naked bodies there are empty stomachs that need the warm meal of soup or Irish stew, and which it is our pleasure to supply as far as funds enable us. Please send direct to the Secretary, at the Office, Exeter Hall, London.

DAYS OF UNIVERSAL PRAYER.

A CIRCULAR has been issued by the Sunday School Union relating to the days set apart for prayer, which are Sunday and Monday, October 18th and 19th. It suggests private intercessory prayer, meeting of teachers before school, scholars' prayer meetings, singing, devotional exercises, and addresses on Sunday afternoons. On the Monday—private intercessory prayer, meetings of female teachers for intercessory prayer and thanksgiving, and churches and congregations to be invited to hold meetings having special relation to the young. An excellent programme of sacred service, with which we are sure our Ragged School friends throughout London and the country will comply to the utmost of their ability.

THE ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, HAVERSTOCK HILL.

THE case of Beatrice Letitia V. Eldridge is submitted to the sympathising notice of Ragged school friends and others. She is a candidate for admission to the above school, and has already come up once for election. Her father was for some years the HONORARY SECRETARY *to Somers Town Ragged School*, and filled the post of a clerk in the Civil Service Stores. He died after thirteen months' illness, leaving a widow and three children quite unprovided for. Proxies will be gladly received by Mr. R. J. Curtis at the office of the Ragged School Union.

REAPING.

"Be not weary in well doing, for in due season ye shall reap if ye faint not."

LITTLE CAMDEN STREET RAGGED SCHOOL.

THE hon. secretary, Mr. Andrew L. Black, writes:—

"I find it very difficult to single out any actual cases of definite changes of character. However, there is great cause for encouragement and thankfulness in the altered and improved behaviour of some of the children who have been in our school for any length of time.

"I may mention a case where a boy who had been talking over an

address with his parents at home, came on the following Sunday to ask for some explanation of the subject.

"At the Night School also we have had some very pleasing results. Three boys all out at work who are great friends, from being very troublesome boys have turned over quite a new leaf, and are now most anxious to learn some arithmetic, in which they have all three made very satisfactory progress, and we hope this will enable them to get better places in the future.

"Another little fellow whose father is a street musician of a low class, and whose mother is dead, has during the last few months learned his alphabet, and can now read short words. This boy, from his age, should be at a Board School, but he has to get what work he can to keep himself, and the rest of the time is spent in the street.

"Among the girls great progress has been made in teaching many of them to make and mend their clothes.

"The Band of Hope is in a flourishing condition."

Anchor Ragged School and Mission, Bermondsey.

The superintendent and teachers in this school have had the joy of seeing some of the children brought to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. The attendance has greatly increased. The working of God's Spirit has been manifest, many in the adult services having been brought to Christ. One bright Sabbath evening a strong burly man had been listening to the preaching of the Gospel, and afterwards wished to be spoken and prayed with. The case was taken up by one of the workers, and the way of salvation made plain. He told of the immoral life he had led, and said he had been parted from his wife on account of his brutality. They have been reconciled, and the man now testifies to the saving power of Jesus.

Marigold Place

reports that A. B., aged ten, was taken dangerously ill with inflammation of the lungs and pleurisy. The doctor said she would not live twenty-four hours. The teacher visited her, and found the greatest distress and poverty. The father had been out of work for months, five other children were living in the same room, cold weather, and scarcely any clothing on the child. She knew what the doctor said, and was trusting to Jesus, and did not fear death. The nurse connected with the institute happily was sent in, and the child recovered. Many of the girls who have left and gone to service have done so well that we have had more applications for servants than we can supply. Several of the very ragged neglected children have

wonderfully improved in manners and cleanliness. They are always very good at the Bible lessons, and give capital answers.

The City Missionary of the district, in a letter to the teacher, bears this testimony to the excellence of the work done in this school, called Stephen the Yeoman by Miss Charlesworth.

"I find traces of the good work throughout the district which I have the privilege of visiting. Many a time I hear of impressions made upon men, women, and children by the Ragged School work.

"Only the other night a man was talking to me of his early experiences in the school, which he remembered with pleasure. I did not ask his name, but he lives in the district.

"There is a family named Bligh which whenever I visit it refers to the school as the only means of moral and religious training obtained.

"My visits are always received by those who have attended the school. This, in my opinion, is strong testimony in favour of the benefits of your work.

"A genuine convert, a true Christian, is a work to produce which requires a vast deal more effort and patience than outsiders suppose. Pretty little tales, with a large amount of gas and music, may cause a sensation, but I prefer the quiet plodding work of such an institution as yours to all the extraordinary efforts which are now the fashion.

"Only our Heavenly Father can gauge the work which unostentatiously, steadily, and truly you are carrying on.

"I am thoroughly convinced that such families as the Butlers, Gardiners, Coxes and others owe what efforts they have made towards a higher life entirely to the influences they have received at 'Stephen the Yeoman,' and they certainly have made headway."

Plymouth.

Thomas Heath, the superintendent of the Ragged School, sends the following:—

"We cannot tell the amount of good which is done by prayerful, faithful labour. Many of our early scholars have passed out from us and gone to distant lands, some of whom after many years have become preachers of the Gospel. Some stranger accosts one and says, 'You do not know me, but I know you.' Such cases have frequently occurred with me. I did not recognise them, but when they made mention of the circumstances of their acquaintance and gave their names my memory responded. Only a few days ago a man of rather dark complexion came to my house. I did not know him, but he turned out to be one of my oldest and earliest scholars, a man of some thirty-five years of age. He is a superintendent of a Sunday school at Wool-

wich. When he told me this I was much moved and encouraged. So it is we sow the seed, but cannot tell which shall prosper, this or that. There is much encouragement in all faithful toil. God's word will not return unto Him void. Let us therefore be zealous in our labours, and pray that the Lord may bless them. Soon we shall have to leave the teacher's chair, or the superintendent's desk, and pass, we trust, to receive the welcome of the Master."

In Memoriam.

HENRY C. PIERSON, ESQ.

The Committee of the Ragged School Union have to mourn the decease of an old and tried friend and colleague. Mr. Henry C. Pierson, for thirty-seven years a member of their Committee, entered into his rest on Sunday morning, July 26th, after a long and painful illness, and after a life devoted to the service of his Master.

In early life Mr. Pierson spent some time on the Continent, but returning to London he obtained a position in the Board of Control, which was eventually merged into the present India Office. But we have more especially to do with his work in connection with the philanthropic institutions of our metropolis. Mr. Pierson was for some time superintendent of the St. Paul's Sunday Schools, Lisson Grove, better known perhaps as the Bentinck Sunday Schools, and an earnest teacher in the Maida Hill Ragged School, St. John's Wood, of which also he was for some years honorary secretary, and where his surviving friends still retain a sunny memory of his devoted self-denying labours.

In May, 1862, Mr. Pierson joined the committee of the Religious Tract Society, and those who know what it is to be on that committee know full well it is no sinecure, but involves much labour and time in reading the many MSS. and publications of the society. His sound judgment and business capacity were always brought to bear upon the work before him, and both on the committee of the Religious Tract Society as well as on that of the Ragged School Union, a ripened experience, an earnest devotion, and a single eye to God's glory made him ever to be a valued and a valuable helper.

On removing to Lee in 1860 Mr. Pierson at once took a deep interest in the West Greenwich Ragged Schools, of which he became honorary secretary and treasurer, as well as a regular teacher in the Sunday School. Until increasing illness rendered him entirely incapable of working for these schools his interest was unabated, and when upon his deathbed the welfare of the school was close to his heart; when in extreme weakness and his mind wandered, he would (although unconsciously) speak about these schools, thus showing how earnest and true was the interest he took in them. The committee of the West Greenwich Ragged Schools passed the following resolution at their first meeting after his death:—

"That this committee, having heard of the death of their late much respected and valued colleague, Mr. Henry C. Pierson, desire to record with gratitude to Almighty God the value they entertain of his past services in connection with the West Greenwich Ragged Schools, and their deep sympathy with his bereaved wife and family, and they hope when the new building is erected to place some permanent memorial of his zeal therein."

Our late friend was ever ready to help in any good work, and always entered with whole-heartedness into anything that he believed was for the glory of God. He was gentle and kind in manner, but firm in his class and school, and many a scholar when grown up to man's estate thanked him in after life for the truth he taught them.

"We also bless Thy holy name for all Thy servants departed this life in Thy faith and fear, beseeching Thee to give us grace so to follow their good example that with them we may be partakers of Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen."

The above sympathetic notice is from the pen of Mr. S. B. Power, a friend of the deceased. When the late Mr. Pierson by failing health became incapable of discharging the duties of honorary secretary to the West Greenwich Ragged School, this gentleman at his request, and much to his relief, undertook the onerous post.

The Ragged School Union, at the committee meeting held on Friday evening, September 11th, passed a resolution expressive of affection, regret, and sympathy: of affection for him who for thirty-seven years served the society most faithfully, and who showed so deeply by word and work his intense pity for poor children; of regret for the loss of a friend and helper, and because there is one standard-bearer the less; and of sympathy with his dear partner, to whom a light of her life has been extinguished, and with his dear family on account of their irreparable loss, for they will never see his like again.

Notices of Books.

Cassell and Co., Belle Sauvage Yard, Ludgate Hill.

The Quiver. Monthly Part. Price 6d. *Little Folks Volume.* Illuminated covers. Price 2s. 6d.

Sunday is a day of leisure, and it is well that serials should be provided giving varied instruction and gratification appropriate to the day. Amongst such serials the *Quiver* takes very high rank.

Little Folks is, as its name imports, a book especially for the young. Its pages are bright with fun and intelligence at play, to instruct and amuse. Mothers with brains to think and hearts to feel should buy this book to help them in the teaching and training of their darlings.

Cassell's Red Library. Stiff covers, 1s. each; or strongly bound in cloth, 2s. each.

The two volumes before us, "Washington Irving's Sketch Book," and "The Talisman, a Tale of the Crusaders," by Sir Walter Scott, are two of a series of reprints of works which have obtained a world-wide celebrity. They contain nearly 400 pages, and are printed in bold type and on good paper. The series comprises works by the most eminent authors of an amusing and instructive character, which cannot fail to charm persons of all ages and all conditions in the present, as they have in the past generation. Cassell's "Red Library" is a marvel of beauty and cheapness, and admirably adapted for school libraries. The firm intend publishing a series of standard works, including History, Biography, Travel, Science, and Fiction, and containing 192 pages small octavo, at 3d. each.

Hodder and Stoughton, Paternoster Row.

Saving to the Uttermost. The Story of Twenty-five Years' Labour in St. Giles's. By G. Holden Pike. With portraits and illustrations. Price 2s. 6d.

This book gives an able and interesting account of George Hatton's self-denying labours in one of the most squalid quarters of London. The story of his labours among the poor, and of his mission to thieves, should be read by every one whose heart is accessible to pity. A noble river of benevolence is here traced to its fountain-head. Mr. Wheatley's work among thieves, which is a special feature of the mission, is beautifully illustrative of the title, "Saving to the Uttermost." The book also contains a graphic description of life in the slums, and some interesting particulars of Seven Dials literature.

Our Navvies. By Mrs. Garnett. Price 5s.

This book does honour to the lady whose pen is ever ready to aid philanthropic efforts. Its pages are alive with thought and feeling. The writer gives the most vivid descriptions of migratory heathen settlements, which from time to time wing their way and settle down for labour like a hive of bees. The book reveals a plague spot which was a disgrace to our common Christianity, but happily such a crying evil is in process of removal through the mission which had its origin in the labours of the late Rev. Lewis Moule Evans, rector of Leathley. It is a quickening book, full of stimulating power to Christian effort, and should therefore be read by all to whom great motive power is welcome or necessary.

Platform Echoes. Leaves from my Note-book of Forty Years. With twelve illustrations. By John B. Gough. Price 5s.

This handsome octavo volume, illustrated by anecdotes, incidents, personal experiences, facts, and stories drawn from the humour and pathos of human life by the great American temperance orator, should be in the hands of all who are deeply interested in the extinction of a disgusting vice. To those who from time to time occupy the temperance platform this book would prove invaluable, as it deals with every phase of a great social evil, and is rich in passages admirable for quotation. Some hard things are said of the moderate drinker to which we do not subscribe.

Ward and Lock, Warwick House, Salisbury Square.

Shilling Library: Sandford and Merton, Todd's Student's Manual, &c.

In these days of quickened intelligence such books as are included in this series are most helpful. They have stood the test of time; they not only gratify and instruct the mind, but exercise a moulding influence on the character. They are illustrated and well bound, and surprisingly cheap. "Todd's Student's Manual" is too well known to need any recommendation, and "Sandford and Merton" is a classic of childhood.

Collins's School Series.

The Improved Illustrated Reader. Fifth Book. 256 pages, full-bound cloth. Price 1s. 2d.

The lessons are interesting and instructive, and the moral tone excellent. The summary is helpful, as showing the pupil how to reduce a lesson to a few important particulars. The exercises in parsing and composition, the questions on the lessons, together with the simplifica-

tion of spelling difficulties, are admirable aids for advancing the intelligence of the pupil. The poetry is admirably adapted for recitation.

KINGDOM AND CO., 52, Moorfields, E.C.

The Life and Work of General Gordon at Gravesend. By W. E. Lilley, clerk to the Royal Engineers' department during General Gordon's command. Price 1s. Cloth, lettered, 2s.

This book shows you what will be done by one who has the mind of Christ. The brief story is full of interest for all who take an active part, or who feel any concern in the welfare of the suffering poor. As we read of his loving work among the waifs of Gravesend our eyes fill with pleasant tears. We commend this book, because such examples are contagious.

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

Gordon Anecdotes. A Sketch of the Career, with Illustrations of the Character, of Charles George Gordon, R.E. By Dr. Macaulay, editor of *Leisure Hour.*

Those who do not care for a closely written sequential story cannot fail to be charmed with this book. The anecdotes are wisely selected and well told. There is a thread holding the chapters together which tell in a most attractive way the story of a man whose career finely illustrates the lines of the poet—

> "Lives of great men all remind us
> We may make our lives sublime."

The Leisure Hour. Monthly Parts. Price 6d.

The June number is a good specimen number, being rich in illustrations, among which are "Hardwick Hall," and the "Milk Girls," after Gainsborough. The topics are varied and most interesting. There are a continuation of two tales, "Ups and Downs in a Stolkjaerre" (a Norway Trip); "Railway Notes in the North-West or Dominion of of Canada," by Rev. Harry Jones; "Hardwick Hall, the Home of the Hartingtons," by the late E. Paxton Hood, which makes us sigh when we think that he will no longer enrich its pages; and an able paper by Mr. H. R. Williams, chairman of the Hornsey Local Board, on "Greater London and its Open Spaces." This article is full of information in relation to a subject of great importance. It comes from the pen of a gentleman who has spent his life in promoting the welfare of poor children. His latest effort has been the obtaining from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners the free gift of Highgate Wood, known as the Gravel Pit Wood, an exquisite piece of woodland of some seventy acres.

This offer of a free gift of Highgate Woods, through Lord Stanhope, to the Corporation of London, was made on February 12th, but it was coupled with the offer of a site at Kilburn, which the Corporation show some unwillingness in accepting on account of the outlay it will involve. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners decline to separate the two, so that these valuable gifts are jeopardised. A letter from the same pen has appeared in the *Times* and *City Press*, the object of which is to bring some pressure to bear on the Corporation of London so as to prevent such a fatality. This is a leading topic of the day, and of interest to all those who are desirous of preserving the lungs of London from congestion.

GRIFFITH AND FARRAN, St. Paul's Churchyard.

Once a Month. A Magazine for Australasia. Edited by Peter Mercer, D.D. Price 1s.

The June number of *Once a Month*, which we have before us, is very readable and interesting, giving one graphic peeps as it does of the lovely scenery of Tasmania, and the longing to see it for ourselves. The article also on "The Premier of Tasmania" must be valued for giving to the world some knowledge of the character of the man who has played so active and important a part in the civil, political, and social progress of its people. We cordially commend the magazine.

PARTRIDGE AND CO., Paternoster Row.

André's Journal. The Talent Finder. Monthly. 1d.

Professor André has started a serial, the object of which appears to be to foster a taste for music, and to provide tales and recitations for Band of Hope Meetings. The contents are varied and interesting.

The Sunday Closing Reporter. Periodically. 1d.

This able publication seeks, through the closing of public-houses on the Sabbath, to secure the day as one of general rest, and indirectly to promote its religious observance.

T. WOOLMER, 2, Castle Street, City Road, and 66, Paternoster Row.

Homely Talks. By Mark Guy Pearse. Price 1s. 6d.

The topics treated are various. "I do not know how I feel" is a phrase indicative of a class of persons whose spiritual condition is met in these short discourses. "The Homelikeness of Jesus;" "Depression: a Talk for a Dull Day;" "Sunshine: a Talk for Happy Times;" "Jacob's Courtship, and what it did for him," &c., &c., are some of the titles of these taking themes.

Cornish Stories, and *Daniel Quorm and his Religious Notions*. First and Second Series. Each, price 1s. 6d.

These books, by Mark Guy Pearse, have obtained, as they deserve, a very wide circulation. The stories are rich in humour and wise insight, and evince the skill of a spiritual physician whose diagnoses are accurate, and whose prescriptions are unfailing remedies.

Notices of Meetings.

FOX COURT, HOLBORN.

A very interesting meeting was recently held at these schools, at which the prizes gained by some of the scholars for keeping their situations for twelve months and upwards were distributed. The prizes and certificates were given by the Committee of the Ragged School Union to the various representatives of Ragged Schools at their annual meeting in Exeter Hall, of which over 800 were given, and fourteen of these were gained by those attending Fox Court. In the absence of Sir Robert W. Carden, M.P., who was to have been present, the earlier part of the meeting was presided over by C. E. Fry, Esq.

Mr. Kirk, Secretary of the Ragged School Union, said it only needed the presence of Sir Robert Carden to fill up the pleasure of that evening, and the prizes before them seemed to be the sole attraction of the meeting. He believed in giving the children some sugar or sweet things in this life in the way of prizes to encourage the boys and girls onward, such as were going to be given that night. A good book was a treasure worth having.

Sir Robert Carden at this stage of the proceedings arrived, and was received with hearty cheers, and took the chair. After the singing of a hymn, he called upon the hon. secretary, Mr. Fagg, who made a short statement concerning the prizes. Out of the fourteen prizes which would be distributed that night, one was about to receive it for the fourth time, four for the third time, three for the second, and one for the first time. Sir Robert Carden then proceeded to distribute the prizes in his usual happy manner, with a shake of the hand and a few homely remarks.

The meeting was afterwards addressed by Messrs. Curtis, Edmunds, Allen, Elcum, Williams, and Sir Robert Carden.

GEORGE YARD, WHITECHAPEL.

At these schools a short time since seventy-eight scholars who had kept their situations for twelve months received prizes and awards of money at the hands of the Earl of Harrowby. The prizes were provided mainly by the Ragged School Union as a reward for industry and good character.

After some words of explanation from Mr. G. Holland, the head of the Mission, Lord Harrowby briefly addressed the meeting. He referred

to the favourable change which has come over George Yard since he first knew it twenty years ago, when it looked somewhat like a field in winter, muddy and forlorn. Having cautioned the young people to combat the prevailing spirit of the age, and urged them to cultivate stability of character, he distributed the prizes to the delighted recipients, some of whom had retained their situations for more than three years. One girl was specially distinguished with a record of fifty-four months to her credit.

LANSDOWNE PLACE, TABARD STREET, BOROUGH.—A HYMN SERVICE.

On Sunday evenings, when school is over, parents and neighbours are invited to come in and spend forty-five minutes in singing the songs of Sion. It is hoped in this way to reach some who will not attend the ordinary means of grace, but who may be met by the singing of an old hymn, and may have memories awakened which have long lain dormant. Many of these poor people have a hard battle to fight, and are sadly indifferent to the Gospel, and to such singing offers attractions which the ordinary services of God's house do not.

LATYMER ROAD.

A Bazaar in aid of the Latymer Road Mission, Blechynden Street, Notting Hill, was held in the Mall Hall, Kensington, on Saturday, June 27th. The stallholders were the Misses Gladstone, Mrs. and Miss Orr, and the Misses Stacpoole. The goods, of which there was a very nice display, comprised plain and fancy needlework, ornaments, toys, perfumery, soaps, flowers, preserves, confectionery, &c., and included contributions from several firms, who had generously responded to an appeal on behalf of the sale. The needlework and fancy articles were the gifts of friends and supporters of the Mission. In a corner of the room was arranged a valuable collection of curiosities, kindly lent for exhibition by G. E. Johnson, Esq. An attractive feature in the evening's programme was the visit of an Indian gentleman, who came to the hall very richly attired in native costume. The proceeds of the Bazaar amounted to £54.

LONDON STREET, DOCKHEAD.

The anniversary of this excellent mission was held on Sunday evening, August 12th. Mr. R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, occupied the chair. The secretary read the report and financial statement, after which the Rev. T. Carlyle, Messrs. Ryall, Curtis, and the missionary of the district, addressed the meeting, which was also much enlivened by some excellent singing, playing, and recitations, by Miss Ryall and other young friends.

DOVE ROW.

On Wednesday, 16th September, a public meeting was held of a most gratifying character. The Rev. W. Marshall occupied the chair. Mr. Cotsford, the treasurer, was called upon to make a statement, in doing which he referred to the progressive character of the work and his long connection with it. The Sunday and week-night operations for children and adults had grown to such a degree that it was found necessary to obtain more working space. The committee had purchased

the freehold of an adjoining house, the lower part of which will be used for infants, and the upper rooms as class-rooms for elder scholars. Besides this the committee had purchased the freehold of the present building. This has involved an outlay of over £800. The chairman, who is the minister of the Cambridge Heath Congregational Church, brought this matter before his people some time since, and they entered heartily into the matter. With the aid of the Ragged School Union, a very liberal gift of £200 from a friend, and other generous aid from themselves, the committee has succeeded in raising over £600. The meeting was a most pleasant one. Several earnest friends of the church and mission contributed by speaking or singing or recitation to the gratification of those present. Mr. R. J. Curtis represented the Ragged School Union on the occasion.

CHISWICK.

On September 21st, 1885, the workers met at the Chiswick Mission Hall to receive a statement regarding the present position of the Ragged School.

The evangelist (Mr. R. T. Smith) stated that by Michaelmas he hoped they would be in possession of Nos. 20 and 21, William Street. Mr. G. D. Freeman had kindly undertaken the transfer of the lease, the *price* of the two cottages being £100, and this amount the treasurer stated was promised or given (£20 having been received from the Committee of the Ragged School Union).

It was thought best that some slight alterations should be made by which the cottages would be adapted to their immediate purpose rather than wait until the funds came in with which to erect a suitable building on the site now occupied by the cottages. The suggestion found favour with all present.

It was decided to appeal for £10, the sum required to cover cost of alterations. Contributions will be thankfully received towards the "alteration fund" by Mr. J. R. Wooster, 4, Broadway, High Road, Chiswick.

On October 20th it is hoped to open the new premises.

NELSON STREET, CAMBERWELL.

The committee of this school have just met to consider the condition of the present building. In consequence of its unsafe and dilapidated condition it has been decided to effect some needful temporary repairs and to prepare for the erection of a new building with all possible speed. It is hoped the committee will be encouraged by the gifts of friends in this important step, made necessary by the state of the structure and the growing necessities of this aggressive mission.

KING'S COURT, BOROUGH.

The missionary, Mr. Loydell, who acts as leader of the earnest band of friends who conduct this mission, held his eleventh anniversary on Sunday, September 20th.

Open-air services were held as usual both before and after the evening service, at which latter Mr. Kirk gave an address.

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ESTABLISHED FOR THE SUPPORT OF

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The following sums have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union, from the 20th of June, 1885, to the 19th of September, 1885, inclusive:—

General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Adams, W. J., Esq., per Thos. Strudwick, Esq.	0	10	0
Aldrich, Admiral	0	10	6
Aldridge, H. G., Esq.	1	1	0
Alexander, Mrs.	2	2	0
A Friend	3	3	0
Anonymous	0	1	6
Bailey, Miss	1	1	0
Bewes, W. A., Esq.	2	2	0
Birch, W. S., Esq.	0	5	0
Blennerhassett, F., Esq.	1	1	0
Bourne, Mrs.	1	0	0
Bryce, John, Esq.	2	2	0
Buttanshaw, M. N., Esq.	10	10	0
Charteris, Lady Caroline	1	1	0
Caudwell, Job, Esq., F.R.S.L.	0	10	0
Chance, Mrs.	2	0	0
Cruddas, W. D., Esq.	5	0	0
Cunliffe, John, Esq.	5	0	0
"Chester"	1	0	0
C. H. B.	5	0	0
Dundas, Lady Jane	1	1	0
Dannett, Miss	0	10	0
Davies, Mrs.	2	0	0
Day, Mrs. J.	1	0	0
Falcon, Mrs.	5	0	0
Fergusson, J. H., Esq.	1	0	0
Flint, Rev. G. S.	2	2	0
Fricker, Charles, Esq.	0	2	6
Friends at Oporto	6	0	0
Goodricke, Lady	1	0	0
Gilbertson, Edw., Esq.	2	0	0
Gordon, Mrs. William	5	0	0
Graham, Mrs.	1	0	0
Graves, Mrs.	1	1	0
Greene, J. W., Esq.	1	0	0
Gregson, Miss	0	5	0
Gresley, Thos., Esq.	1	0	0
Griffith, Mrs.	0	10	0
Gripper, F., Esq.	3	3	0
Gristock, W., Esq., M.D.	0	3	0
Hart, Mr. A. W.	0	5	0
Haward, S. E., Esq.	1	0	0
Hawkins, Miss, Contents of Work-basket	0	15	0
Heath, Mrs. C. J.	5	0	0
Higgott, Miss	1	0	0
Hill, W. H., Esq.	0	5	0
Howard, John, Esq.	0	5	0
Hughes, W. Hughes, Esq.	2	2	0
Huish, Mrs.	1	0	0
Jones, Miss Emily	2	10	0
Jones, Mrs.	0	5	0
Lafone, Mrs. (the late), per Miss Lafone	1	0	0
Lammie, Mrs.	1	0	0
Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Maclean	0	5	0
Leicester Ragged School, per H. Lawrence, Esq.	0	10	6
Lidwill, Mrs.	0	5	0
Livesey, Geo., Esq.	20	0	0
Lloyd, D., Esq.	0	1	0
MacGregor, J., Esq.	20	0	0
Morton, F. B., Esq.	2	2	0
Newcome, Miss	1	0	0
Nicholson, Messrs. John & Sons	1	1	0
Owen, Mrs.	0	2	0
Payne, James, Esq.	5	5	0
Powell, Mrs.	1	1	0
Prisaulx, Miss	0	5	0
Pritchard, Miss	1	0	0
"Rags and their Remedies," per the "Times"	10	0	
Readers of "Christian," per Messrs. Morgan & Scott	10	0	0
Riddell, Mrs.	2	0	0
Round, Mrs. Geo.	0	1	0
Royds, Rev. F. C.	0	10	0
R. L. E.	1	1	0
Salter, Miss Emma	0	3	0
Seager, Miss	5	0	0
Shadbolt, H. F., Esq.	0	5	0
Shepherd, Rev. R.	0	5	0
Sherrard, Capt. C. W., R.E.	2	2	0
Simms, James, Esq.	1	1	0
Smith, Mrs.	0	2	0
Smyth, Mrs.	0	10	6
Snashall, Mrs.	1	1	0
Sturge, George, Trust Fund: Third Half-yearly Instalment	100	0	0
Threlfall, Chas., Esq.	2	2	0
Waltham, Mrs.	0	5	0
Wedgwood, Miss	1	0	0
Wilkes, Rev. A.	0	5	0
Wilson, Mrs.	0	5	0
Wilson, Samuel, Esq.	0	3	0

Holiday Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Allbut, Mrs.	1	0	0
Ashford, Mrs.	0	5	0
Askew, Mrs.	0	10	0
A Friend	0	1	0
A Gift	0	2	6
Anonymous	0	13	0
Blantyre, Lord	5	0	0
Baird, Miss J.	0	10	0
Bennett, Rev. W.	0	2	0
Bigsby, Rev. H.	0	10	0
Birch, Miss J. M. W.	0	5	0
Bland, R. M., Esq.	5	0	0
Bright, Mrs. Eliza	1	0	0
Brooke, Captain	0	5	0
Brown, Miss	1	0	0
Campbell, Lady	1	0	0
Calder, G. A., Esq.	5	0	0
Cash, The Misses	0	5	0

Continued on opposite page.

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